

Appln No. 09/575,150
Amdt. Dated July 7, 2005
Response to Office action of June 16, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eldridge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,988) in view of Goffinet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,256). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledged that the Applicants' previous arguments concerning the rejection of all pending claims based on Eldridge et al. in view of Stefik (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,403) were considered and were persuasive. Further, the Examiner has acknowledged that "Eldridge does not disclose obtaining authentication information at a printer." However, the Examiner now states that Goffinet et al. discloses obtaining authentication information at a printer. As with earlier cited prior art viewed in light of Eldridge et al., here again the Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Examiner.

The Examiner states that "Goffinet discloses: a) receiving, at the printer and at the first server, an authorization identifier request requesting the allocation of an authorization identifier; (see Goffinet col. 6, lines 28-31; col. 11, line 66 – col. 12, line 1: obtain at printer from printer control panel printer name (i.e. printer identifier) and printer access password (i.e. authorization information) for local and network (i.e. remote) access to printer;". However, upon careful review, it appears that col. 6, lines 28-31 of Goffinet disclose only the well known fact that laser printers can be manually accessed using an operator control panel on the printer. No mention or even suggestion is made concerning receiving an authorization identifier at the control panel. In fact no mention is made anywhere in Goffinet about providing authorization or security information or passwords through the printer control panel. In fact the only reference to authorizations, security or passwords in Goffinet concern the obtuse listing of Network Printing Alliance Protocol (NPAP) operating variable names listed in Table 1, namely, "OMStartJobPassword", "OMSsystemParamsPassword", and "OMP JL Password". However there is no suggestion that such password operating variables are provided to a user at the printer control panel.

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Further it is very unlikely that the operating variables of Goffinet identified above would be provided to a user through the printer control panel. That is because Goffinet explicitly teaches away from the present invention. Goffinet states that "it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a networked system that includes a host computer and multiple printers in which the printers are capable of allowing the host computer to easily and accurately setup one or more of the printers connected to the network, via commands entered via a Network Administrator working at the host computer." (col. 1, lines 40-46) (Emphasis added). Thus Goffinet teaches a printer setup procedure that requires no physical access to a printer—which is the antithesis of the present claims. See MPEP 2141.02: "A prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984)." See also MPEP 2143.01: "If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)."

Goffinet at col. 11, line 66 – col. 12, line 3 states: "The laser printer setup can originate via manual procedure by a user manipulating the operator panel directly at a particular laser printer, or the setup can originate via a Network Administrator entering information at a host computer...." But a manual setup using an operator panel directly at a particular laser printer is well known (and in fact preceded network printer setups) and does not in any way disclose or suggest the limitation of the present claims of "providing to a user, at the printer, the authorization identifier and the printer identifier." Here again, the passage of Goffinet cited by the Examiner actually teaches away from the present claims because Goffinet explicitly states that the setup may be done manually at the printer or remotely at a host computer. Thus if the setup process may be completed remotely at a host computer, then clearly no physical access to the printer is required.

As we have stated previously, the method of the present claims is very useful for minimizing, for example, printer spamming when a printer is accessible through the Internet. For instance, a home or business user of the present invention, who has both a local printer and a local personal computer (PC), may desire to print to the printer from the PC via the internet, i.e., without a direct connection between the PC and the printer. The method of the present invention enables such a home or business user to print an authorization identifier at the local printer and then use that identifier to gain access to the printer through the Internet. It is envisioned that physical access to the printer could be obtained by, for example, receiving a physical page printed at the printer, where the page includes the authorization identifier. Alternatively the printer could provide the authorization identifier on a display screen on the printer, or in any other manner that is understandable to a user that is in the physical vicinity of the printer.

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As argued above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the new art cited by the Examiner does not disclose, alone or in view of other cited art, the limitations of the present claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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